

The Baptist Record

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Missions call often goes to core of family structure

By Tim Nicholas

Calls to missions extend beyond mom and dad into the lives of their children. Witness the story of the Wallace family, missionaries to Peru.

In early 1991, Karl Wallace, who had been working in evangelism and literature distribution, began thinking about leaving Lima, the capitol of Peru, for a more hands-on type of ministry. It would mean either moving to a rural area of Peru, or perhaps even taking on another assignment in a different country.

Two possibilities opened up in Peru—one on the coast, another in the northwestern mountains. He consulted his wife, Peggy, who was open to the idea. Son, Jacob, 13, thought that would be fine.

But Christina, 16, "was adamant about it and didn't want to leave," said Karl.

"I didn't want to have anything to do with it," remembered Christina. But, she said because her parents were missionaries, "I went through the motions and prayed about it. It was funny, because I found out several of my school friends were going to be leaving. Little by little certain things I'd been looking forward to dwindled to nothing." She paused, "It was obvious God didn't want me in Lima."

At the same time Karl was interim pastor of their church in Lima. One of his sermons was on God's call to Isaiah who responded unconditionally with "Here am I, send me."

Christina said that after that sermon she realized she was putting conditions on the move.

"It helped me realize how much praying can do for you—not just words. You really need to talk to God." She added, "It can be easier if you cooperate—talk to him and really listen. Now (as a furlough year ends) I can't wait to get back."

During the family's furlough in Mississippi this year, Christina attended Jericho, a missions camp, and "started thinking maybe God wants me in missions," she said.

She isn't certain that it will be missions, but, last September, she made a commitment to full-time Christian service.

The move from Lima to Cajamarca "was a big test for us in many ways," said Karl. Back in Lima, Peggy had the house to herself while Karl was at work and the children in school.

Now Karl studies at the house and every morning Peggy and the kids go to a rented building for school. She is home teaching their children, an activity that makes for real togetherness.

Said dad, "Mom knows if you have homework." Added Jacob, "You can't hide a grade."

The rented building is also used for housing more than 400 volunteers who have helped in special projects in the region in recent years.

The Foreign Mission Board has poured about \$2 million into the area since 1986. That translates to 40 water wells providing drinking water for about 100,000 people, 50 miles of irrigating canals, and just under 40 miles of secondary access roads, plus a holding reservoir, small animal projects, drought resistant wheat and corn, and the teaching of handicrafts as income sources.

Karl's job is in pastoral education. He offers a lay institute for leaders of the 27 churches in the area, 25 of which have grown out of the community development projects.

"The people are by and large agricultural-

ly based," said Karl, and either illiterate or severely limited in educational capabilities.

So in the lay institute, Karl does not use much lecturing. Instead, he uses the "storying" concept. "I didn't dream it up," he said. The oral tradition is as old as civilization itself. God told Moses to tell the people of the great and wonderful things God had done.

"The basic principle is to take a biblical truth and tell the Bible story in understandable story form." He adjusts the story to meet the understanding level of the audience.

Except, "We can't be spontaneous," said Karl. If he doesn't tell the story the same way each time, someone will point out that he had changed the story. "They might think the truths have changed," he said.

The principle of oral transmission of history is culturally founded, both in the Inca tradition from which the people have descended, and the Catholic tradition of long-standing.

The difficulty, said Karl, is to make the application in addition to getting the stories memorized.

"This is a big transition for me because for the last eight or nine years, I'd been involved in theological education by extension at the bachelor level," said Karl.

Peggy's transition was in taking over the educational responsibilities of the children. This past semester at Hinds Community College, she took four courses, including calculus, in order to keep up.

In Lima, Peggy was on the WMU executive committee as missions organization leader. In Cajamarca, actually, they live in a nearby community called Banos del Inca, where there are hot water springs, Peggy teaches Sunday School and Acteens, works with WMU, and plays piano—and is VBS director, added Karl.

"I enjoy getting to know the ladies and being their friend," said Peggy. One new Christian, whom she helped disciple, brought a live duck to their home for dinner on their last day before furlough.

When they return from furlough, Jacob and Christina look forward to getting back into the basketball games they play in the afternoons with their friends. Those games have helped the kids in spreading the gospel.

When they first arrived in Cajamarca, they began playing basketball behind the house and met three boys. Jacob invited them to come to a revival service. Halfway through Karl's sermon, they arrived and sat on the last row. They left after the service, but returned to speak with Karl who explained the plan of salvation. All three accepted Christ.

"The group has really reached out to a lot of other people," said Christina. One of the three guys faithfully comes to church, another moved away, and the third is president of the youth group.

Karl believes his family has had more quality time in their last year in the mountains than in their four years in Lima. Lack of outside activities and the small community size is a partial reason. But that family atmosphere permeates the very culture in which they live.

Said Karl, "A church gets started on a hilltop and a guy says, 'I've got two cousins on the next hilltop.' That's how we get church starts." In the mountains of Northwestern Peru are many such hilltops.

Nicholas is director of communications, MBCB.



The Wallaces

Kazakhs open to gospel

ALMA-ATA, Kazakhstan (EP)—Religious leaders in Kazakhstan are excited about the spiritual interest Kazakhs and Russians living in this central Asian republic are showing since leaders signed a "manifesto" of religious freedom.

The manifesto, signed during the 1991 Kazakh-American Cultural Exchange, has led to laws guaranteeing religious freedom in the republic, a nation long dominated by Marxism-Leninism and atheism.

According to Victor Gorelov, pastor of the Russian Baptist Church of Alma-Ata, people no longer fear to seek answers to spiritual questions.

Gorelov said Christian workers from such places as North America, Germany, and Austria have shown Kazakhs that large numbers of believers live throughout the world. He said their visits are especially important now since Kazakhs are open to different religions.

"People now have an open way to God. We think it's an answer to our prayers. We hope Christianity can be taught everywhere here," Gorelov said.

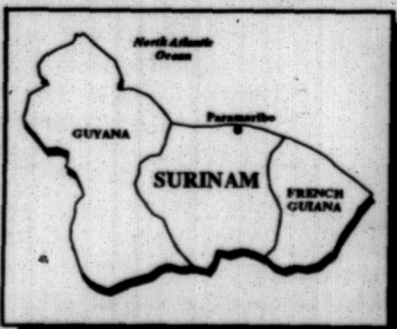
Surinam united on Bible

PARAMARIBO, Surinam (EP)—The Surinam Bible Society reports that for the first time in the history of that country, all churches have a common focus: translation of the Sranan Bible.

The present Sranan New Testament was published in 1829 and is now "quite obsolete and not being used widely. The new translation would not only meet the needs of the church in Surinam, but could be a vehicle to reach many Sranan-speakers in the country and immigrants in Holland," a Society report said.

It is hoped that the translation of the New Testament and the Psalms will be complete within six years.

Surinam is a republic on the northeastern coast of South America, between Guyana and French Guiana.



Briefly...

Sunday work

MONTREAL, Canada (EP)—The Quebec Human Rights Tribunal has ruled that a Montreal retail store discriminated against a sales clerk who refused to work on Sundays.

The court awarded Yolande Smart, a Roman Catholic, \$3,900 in lost salary and damages. Quebec Court Judge Michael Sheehan wrote that the store routinely made accommodations for minority religions but was less accommodating to majority religions.

Sign ban

CINCINNATI, Ohio (EP)—Under pressure from a federal judge to resolve a discriminatory ban on religious signs, the Cincinnati Reds baseball team said they will now ban all non-commercial signs and banners. The dispute grew out of a dispute with a minister who attempted to hang two religious banners during a Reds game.

Last year, a fan of the Washington Redskins football team was awarded \$3,500 in damages and \$31,500 in legal fees for confiscation of his Scripture sign at a game.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



A wise choice for missions

Jerry A. Rankin will be nominated as the new president of the Foreign Mission Board.

The 51-year-old Mississippi native will be voted on by the FMB in Houston, June 14. He will be replacing Keith Parks who retired as president in late 1992.

This was a wise choice for the search committee. Rankin is a veteran missionary who has done well in his profession.

His wife, Bobbye, who like Jerry is a Mississippi College graduate, was a missionary in spirit before meeting Jerry and has faithfully served with him.

Prophetically, their portraits are hanging in the Hall of Fame room at MC.

Rankin will be good for morale, not only in the USA, but over-

seas. Missionaries will respond to one who has experienced missions.

Hopefully, giving by SBC churches will increase and talk of cutbacks in home staff and programs will be no more.

Doctrinally, he is a sound Southern Baptist with a strong belief in the inspired Word of God.

Rankin has not been involved in the politics of the SBC. He will honor the past work of missions and be open to new approaches.

He can be trusted. I've known Jerry and Bobbye since their appointment to Indonesia, and both will stand by their word. He has sought to serve God with his life and stewardship.

He is not perfect. He does have

an abiding interest in missions and evangelism. His methodology may differ from others but in loyalty to friends he is unswerving.

I believe there is a collective sigh of relief in the SBC family which will be translated into a renewed dedication to the Great Commission.

Joel Gregory, search committee chairman, said, "Although Rankin has not been part of the FMB's administrative inner circle, that distance may serve as an advantage. Even though he's in the structure, he's in a healthy sense independent of the structure."

Gregory and his search committee are to be commended for this selection. Jerry and Bobbye will need the prayers of Southern Baptists in the assigned task.

Please don't shoot the pianist!

Oscar Wilde told of a century-old Leadville, Colo., saloon with a posted sign: "Please don't shoot the pianist. He is doing his best."

There are days when all of us feel like the hard-pressed pianist. We try, oh, so hard but still we attract the bullets. A pastor friend was called out on Saturday night to counsel with teenagers. He was up most of the night and was not at his best on Sunday. The critics didn't ask questions but began firing.

A mother tried to balance a full-

time job, making a home for the kids and her husband, plus church and school responsibilities. She tried, ever so much, but the bullets struck home as her husband ran away with a more "in tune" woman.

The teenager was trying to live a Christian life and remain chaste but his peers were unmerciful as they subjected him to the firing line.

In *The Spirituality of Imperfection*, Ernest Kurtz quotes Commissioner of Baseball, Francis T.

Vincent: "Baseball teaches us, or has taught most of us, how to deal with failure. We learn at a very young age that failure is the norm in baseball and, precisely because we have failed, we hold in high regard those who fail less often. I also find it fascinating that baseball, alone in sports, considers errors to be part of the game, part of its rigorous truth."

Try to remember that the next time you are trying your best at the piano and the bullets begin to fly.

—GH

Free speech and free press

By William Pinson Jr.

Through the centuries Christians have been committed to speaking and writing the truth.

Often they did so when there was no legal provision for freedom of speech or press, and they paid dearly for acting on their convictions.

Baptists exercise freedom of speech and press extensively. Note, for example, the hundreds of publications which tumble from Baptist presses every month.

Many of these publications are primarily educational or promotional pieces for SBC organizations. But the state Baptist newspapers are dedicated to reporting news.

In a sense their task is the most difficult of all, especially in times of controversy and crisis.

Constant decisions must be made about what news to report, how much space to give to what,

and who to contact about events. Most papers operate with limited budgets and staffs and yet are expected to produce quality weekly papers.

It is not surprising that Baptist publications receive criticism. Freedom is never easy. It calls for discipline and responsibility.

Our Baptist publishers and editors are committed to exercising their freedom responsibly. We may not always agree with them and may in fact disagree strongly at some points, but we can all agree that we need a free press as a free people.

Baptists, of all people, should subscribe to their state Baptist paper. After all, what good is freedom of speech and press if no one listens or reads?

Please pray, thanking God for the freedoms we enjoy in our nation, including freedom of speech and press.

Pray also for the publishers and editors of our Baptist papers. And pray for Baptists, the people of freedom, that we will indeed be true to our heritage.

Pinson is executive director, Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Celebrate Baptist heritage in June

Baptist Heritage Month is sponsored each year in June by the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. The agency suggests using one or more of the following guidelines for observing the 1993 "Southern Baptists: Equipping Believers" theme:

—Use the pamphlet, "Who are Southern Baptist Ministers" (available for purchase from the Historical Commission) in Sunday

School classes, Discipleship Training classes, etc., during the month of June.

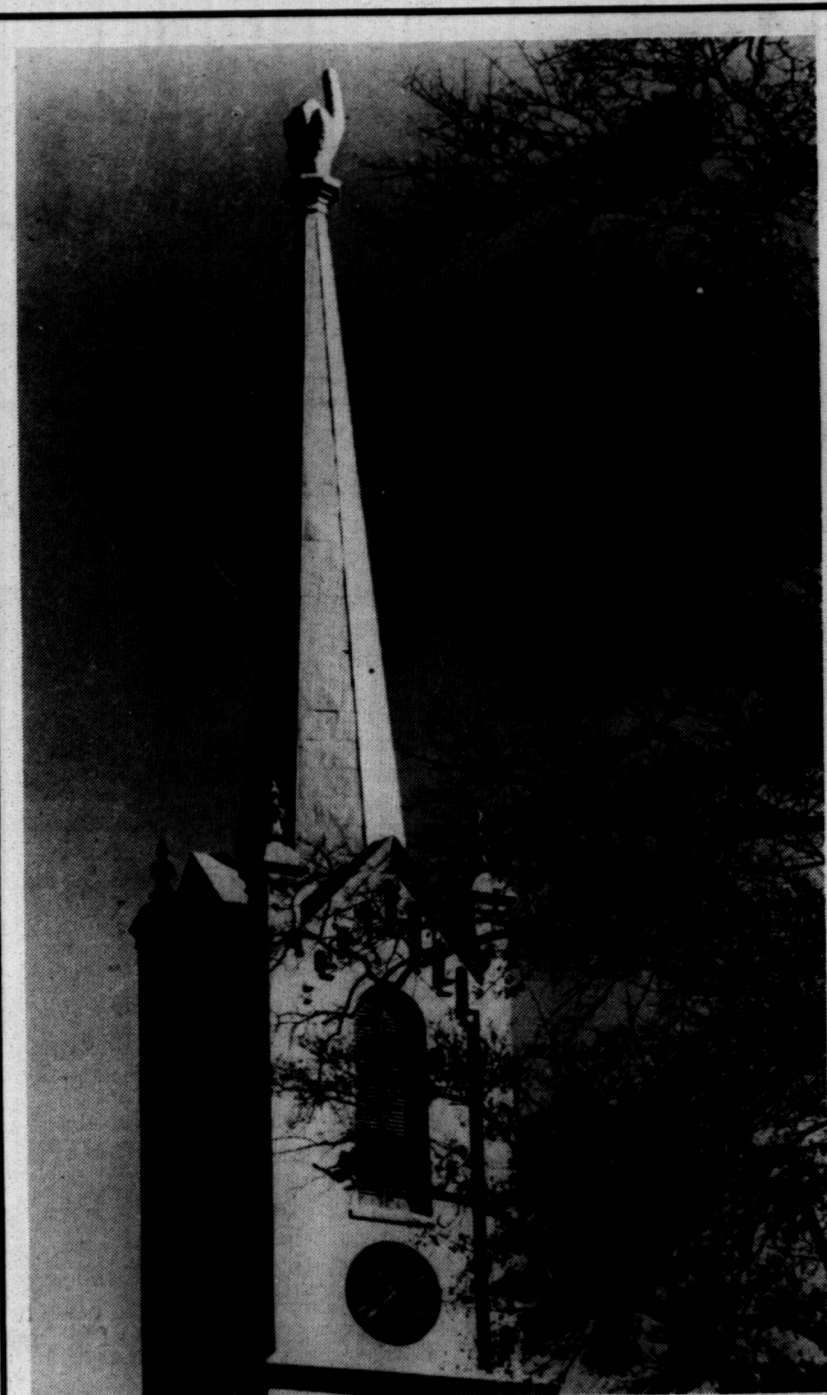
The pamphlet will help members see that all Christians are to develop their gifts of ministry.

—Develop a sermon on equipping believers. In the sermon, cite examples of church members, past and present, who taught classes at your church. Also, include meaningful events or effective educational programs that have equip-

ped believers for Christian service.

—During a Sunday morning worship service in June, call on those who teach in Sunday School or other programs to stand so the congregation may recognize them.

—Baptist Heritage Month resources (bulletin inserts, posters, and pamphlets) are available for purchase from the Historical Commission by calling toll-free 1-800-966-BAPT.



Freedom of the religious press

Let's keep it that way!

Observe
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Mississippian nominated for top FMB post

By Robert O'Brien

BEDFORD, Texas (BP)—A search committee seeking a president for the Foreign Mission Board reached into the ranks of its overseas administrators and has unanimously nominated Jerry A. Rankin.

Rankin, 51, a 23-year veteran of missions from Mississippi, has served as the board's area director for Southern Asia and the Pacific since 1987.

Board trustees will vote on Rankin at a called meeting June 14 in Houston, Joel Gregory, chairman of the 15-member trustee search committee, announced May 25. The trustee session, set for 2 p.m. at a location to be named, precedes the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 15-17.

If elected by the required 75% majority of trustees, Rankin would succeed R. Keith Parks, who retired as president Oct. 30, 1992. Parks departed earlier than planned, citing differences with trustees over his leadership role and the direction of missions.

Rumors persisted that the committee would work from a narrow list of names of candidates whose agenda is the denomination's conservative resurgence, not missions. Reports continued to circulate that

little chance existed for election of a person inside the board with the kind of missions experience necessary to oversee the work of 3,900 missionaries in 129 countries.

But all along committee members insisted their only agenda was to "find the will of God."

In nominating Rankin, whom trustee chairman John Jackson called "a dark horse," the committee opted for a candidate who has focused on missions over 23 years as a missionary and administrator.

Rankin and his wife, the former Bobbye Simmons, were appointed as missionaries to Indonesia in June 1970. He rose through the ranks to direct missions in Southern Asia and the Pacific. Based in Singapore, he oversees the work of 480 missionaries in 15 countries.

"If I'm elected," Rankin told Baptist Press, "it will affirm the priority of the board's missions agenda and hopefully encourage missionaries, staff, and Southern Baptists about the future of foreign missions."

He echoed Gregory and Jackson in saying his nomination reflected "a spiritual process in seeking the will of the Lord" — not a political one.

Gregory said Rankin was winnowed out of 80 original candi-

dates, including 17 whom the committee ranked in its top two tiers of potential nominees and investigated extensively.

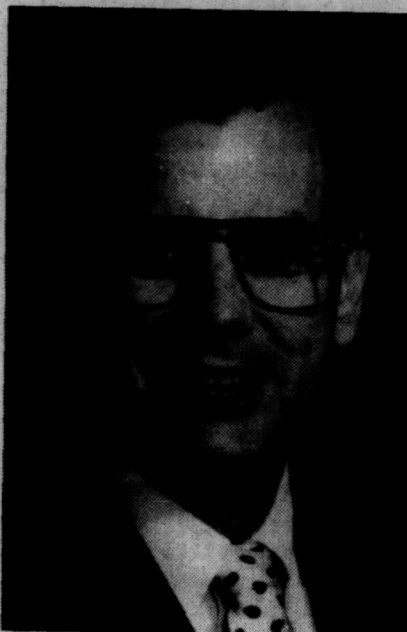
Finally, Gregory asked each committee member to rank the top four candidates and list anyone he or she could not support. Rankin "received by far and away the most first-place votes and no negative votes," Gregory said. "When we saw that, we voted to focus solely on him until there was a determination."

"Jerry Rankin was in the top five or six candidates all along, but not until the last did he rise to the top," said Jackson, who participated as an ex officio, non-voting member of the committee. "God put it together. Only in that way could Jerry have moved past board vice presidents and pastors and other leaders around the convention. It wasn't done with arm twisting. It came on a unanimous vote. God waited until the appropriate time and let him shine forth. We were

able to see him as God's choice."

Rankin said the search committee talked to him extensively about his beliefs. "They were satisfied about who I am doctrinally, theologically, and denominationally, but I think that's enough to say about that. Now is the time to move ahead with a missions agenda — making Jesus Christ known to a lost world."

Gregory said Rankin "expressed commitment to the inerrancy of (See Rankin, page 9)



Rankin

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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Published Since 1877

Rankin's selection applauded by Baptists across Mississippi

By Teresa Dickens

Mississippi Baptists have responded enthusiastically to the announcement that native son Jerry Rankin has been nominated to serve as the next president of the Foreign Mission Board. Following are comments made by a variety of Mississippi Baptist leaders.

"I attribute the selection of Jerry Rankin...to be the work of the Holy Spirit. His wife Bobbye is an effective intercessory pray-er. I am

optimistic about it."—W.W. Walley, president, Mississippi Baptist Convention.

"It's a marvelous development. I'm thankful they have discovered such a person of dedication and integrity who was nurtured in the background of the seriousness and devotion to Christ as is characteristic of our Mississippi Baptist churches. I'm thanking God and pray for its successful passage through the process."—Bill Causey, executive director, MBCB.

"I think it is fantastic. Jerry is bright, creative, a scholar, a great preacher of God's Word, and an effective missionary. He is from good stock and will be wonderful for the direction of foreign missions."—Marjean Patterson, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union.

"I'm very proud that a Mississippian who was serving with the Foreign Mission Board was selected as president. I feel the ladies of Mississippi WMU will respond warmly to Jerry Rankin's leadership."—Sandra Nash, president, Mississippi WMU.

"I have a deep appreciation for Jerry's grasp on the needs in the world and for his faith in what God can do."—Joan Tyler, past-president, Mississippi WMU.

"I baptized Jerry, lead in his licensing and ordination for ministry, officiated in his and Bobbye's wedding, and was there when they surrendered to be missionaries. They are among our (Southern Baptists) finest. He will serve us well as president of the Foreign Mission Board."—Russell McIntire, retired, former pastor of First Church, Clinton.

"I am enthusiastic about Jerry's selection, and hopeful and prayerful that the Foreign Mission Board's trustees will approve the

committee's choice."—Raymond Kolb, retired FMB missionary with 44 years of service.

"Both Jerry and Bobbye are very fine people. They are veteran missionaries and understand life on the field. That means a lot to me as a former missionary."—Mary Simmons, former missionary with her husband Bob, to the Philippines.

"When Jerry first made known to me his intention of being a missionary, I trusted him regarding his decision, gave support and encouragement to him, prayed for him, and never doubted the leadership of the Lord in his life. Through the years, I have followed this practice and will continue as he enters into his new assignment."—Pansy Rankin, mother of Jerry.



Preparing the way

Carlos Garcia (right) former Peruvian vice-president and Baptist pastor, confers with Southern Baptist missionary Hayward Armstrong of Atmore, Ala. on ways to help Peruvian evangelicals prepare for political service. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

Southern Baptist leaders express confidence in Rankin nomination

By Art Toalston

NASHVILLE (BP)—Jerry Rankin is a solid nominee as president of the Foreign Mission Board, leaders of several key SBC entities said in statements released after the FMB presidential search committee made its announcement May 24.

Morris Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president, noted: "I have known Jerry Rankin since we were students together at Mississippi College. His whole life has been characterized by his love for our Lord and his genuine heartfelt desire to obey God," Chapman said of Rankin.

"His missionary zeal will bring a fresh, new excitement to foreign missions for Southern Baptists," Chapman continued. "He is a visionary leader who not only knows about missions, he has lived missions for 23 years. I am convinced the search committee is recommending the man most qualified and best prepared for this strategic position in Southern Baptist life."

Rankin, currently FMB area director for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, will be interviewed and voted on by FMB trustees during a special meeting Monday, June 14, in Houston prior to the June 15-17 annual meeting of the SBC there.

Rankin's nomination to lead an agency with 3,900 missionaries in 129 countries caps a 14-month search by the FMB trustees' 15-member search committee led by Joel Gregory, former pastor of First Church in Dallas. Rankin, if approved by the 75% margin needed for election by trustees, will succeed R. Keith Parks, who retired last year over various differences with trustees on missions policy.

Chapman, in his statement, also offered kudos to Don Kammerdiener, FMB executive vice president who is serving as interim president during the search process. "Don Kammerdiener also deserves tremendous thanks from Southern Baptists," Chapman said, "for his extraordinary leadership

during a difficult interim period."

Other leaders of SBC entities voicing enthusiasm for Rankin were:

— James T. Draper Jr., Baptist Sunday School Board president: "I have strong confidence in Jerry Rankin as the nominee for president of the Foreign Mission Board, first of all because of the prayerful and careful approach of the search committee. While I have not met him personally, I am impressed with his strong missionary credentials and his proven track record of innovation in missions philosophy and practice. His commitment to world evangelization and missionary enterprise is clear. I affirm the committee and am confident Dr. Rankin will make an excellent president."

— Kammerdiener: "I'm delighted that the committee has chosen a person with extensive missionary experience. My concern from the beginning has been that we have continuity and that we have a For-

(See LEADERS, page 9)

Southern vice-president becomes fifth administrator to leave school

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Elisabeth Lambert has become the second of four vice presidents at Southern Seminary to resign her post as the Louisville school undergoes a leadership change.

Lambert, vice president for student services since 1985, will leave her job July 31, the day President Roy Honeycutt retires.

She is the fifth top administrator to announce plans to step down since the March 26 election of Al Mohler as Honeycutt's successor. Mohler, who will take office Aug. 1, has vowed to steer the Southern Baptist Convention's oldest seminary in a conservative direction.

Lambert declined to discuss the reasons for her departure but said in her resignation letter to Honeycutt that she can "no longer serve the seminary."

She holds a master's degree in social services work from the University of Louisville, as well as a master of arts in Christian education degree from Southern Seminary and bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College.

Prior to becoming Southern's first female vice president in 1985, Lambert served the seminary as dean of students and as director of student services. She has worked for the seminary since 1975.

Lambert's departure, along with the resignation of David Wilkinson, vice president for seminary relations, leaves only two vice presidents in place: Tom Mabe, vice president for development, and T. J. McGlothlin, vice president for business services.

A fifth person who holds a key administrative position but is not classified as a vice president also has resigned. Ron Dempsey, Southern's director of academic services, has been named assistant dean of Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C.

Southern's provost and two deans also have announced plans to step down before Mohler takes office. Provost Larry McSwain has been elected president of Shorter College in Rome, Ga.; music dean Milburn Price has been named to a similar position at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.; and Christian education dean Bill

Rogers has resigned that post but plans to remain on the seminary faculty.

Anne Davis, dean of the social work school, had announced before Mohler's election her plans to return to full-time classroom duties. Honeycutt has

named professor Diana Garland the new dean for that school.

If he remains in place, David Dockery, dean of the theology school since August 1992, will have the longest tenure of any academic administrator on campus after July 31.

Southern's Honeycutt sets "record straight"

By Mark Wingfield

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Critics who claim Roy Honeycutt has not stood firmly by the doctrinal statement of Southern Seminary are misguided and engaging in "libelous" activity, the retiring seminary president said during his last commencement address.

Honeycutt, who will retire July 31 after 11 years as seminary president, delivered the keynote address during commencement ceremonies May 21 in Alumni Chapel at the Louisville, Ky., seminary.

With some of the strongest language he has used publicly in recent years, Honeycutt said he wanted to "set the record straight" and "drive down a stake" to show what the seminary has become under his administration.

"Some seem to believe among trustees and critics that I have been less diligent than I should have been or than they wanted me to have been" in regard to the abstract, Honeycutt explained.

"We have affirmed the Abstract of Principles, regardless of what others may say," he asserted. He labeled any account to the contrary as "libelous."

Honeycutt also made a point of his support for women in ministry, an issue that has become the first major flash point between the president-elect and some students, faculty, and alumni.

Mohler has stated he does not believe women should serve as pastors or in certain other leadership roles in the church, although he has said women will be accepted in all the seminary's degree

programs.

Honeycutt said affirming women in ministry is "consistent with the heritage of Southern Seminary," "faithful to the Bible," "consistent with the unique nature of the divine call to Christian ministry," "faithful to the Holy Spirit's indiscriminate distribution of God's gifts," and "faithful to Southern Baptist polity."

Honeycutt also addressed moderate Baptists who have accused him of giving in to conservative demands. That he and trustees have seen things differently is well-known, he admitted.

But after the Atlanta SBC meeting in 1991, Honeycutt said he "made a commitment to preserve as much of the wholeness of this seminary as possible."

"Some would prefer the active abolition of the seminary by its friends, including faculty, staff, and students. Others would prefer its demise rather than any change from the past," he reported.

But the outgoing president said he believes "we should preserve as much of our heritage for as long as we can in this seminary."

Honeycutt said those who claim he has lost courage or abandoned conflict due to fear are dead wrong. "I fear no person between heaven above and hell below."

However, he does fear "those who can kill the soul" as well as those driven by pride, anger, petulance, hostility, short-sightedness, "and other things I can't mention."

Wingfield is news director of Western Recorder, Kentucky.



Mission talk

Earl Hewitt Jr. (left), Southern Baptist missionary/physician to the African nation of Ghana, discusses his work with Laurel pharmacist William Wells during the May annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship. Wells, a volunteer, has been involved in several international mission trips. The meeting, held at First Church, Jackson, was attended by approximately 92 health professionals. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Schools caught in middle of graduation prayer fight

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (ABP)—School boards across the country are learning this spring that the U.S. Supreme Court's 1992 ruling against prayer at public-school graduation exercises was not the last word on the subject.

That's partly because some individuals and interest groups have refused to give up their campaign to include invocations and benedictions in the annual ceremonies. And it's partly because a federal appeals court agreed with their view—that the Supreme Court's commencement-prayer ban does not apply across the board.

In the meantime, school districts have been caught in a cross-fire of competing claims about whether some form of graduation prayer is permissible.

First, the American Center for Law and Justice, televangelist Pat Robertson's answer to the American Civil Liberties Union, notified every school district in the country that student-initiated, student-led commencement prayers are permissible. The ACLU offered to send teams to meet with local officials.

Even student-initiated prayers incorporated into official school ceremonies "amount to state-sponsored religious activities that violate the First Amendment," the ACLU responded.

Predictably, the episode has produced confusion. A large South Dakota district, for example, adopted a policy based on the

ACLJ recommendations after receiving the Robertson organization's mailings. Then, after hearing from the ACLU, the district reversed itself.

It is too early to gauge the full impact of the ACLJ bulletin.

Spokesman Gene Kapp said the ACLJ has received requests for assistance from about 5,000 districts, but the organization does not know how many of those districts will decide to have graduation prayers.

Some communities are attempting to avoid the growing dispute over prayer at graduation ceremonies by conducting non-school-sponsored baccalaureate services.

In Amarillo, Texas, eight churches joined together to sponsor a baccalaureate for seniors at the city's four high schools on May 23. About 1,000 of the school system's 1,500 seniors were among the 3,500 participants in the voluntary event.

"We were able to provide Amarillo seniors a baccalaureate service that was in keeping with tradition and also in keeping with the laws of the land," said Ben Loring, pastor of First Church of Amarillo and an organizer of the event.

Loring said one advantage to a privately-sponsored event is that participants are more free to convey religious messages than in a school-sponsored event.

Chesser writes for BJCPA.



Day of Prayer

Richard Powell (inset), pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, reads from his Bible before offering a prayer for elected officials at the Day of Prayer in early May on the steps of the state capitol in Jackson. Looking on were Gov. Kirk Fordice (front row, right) and his wife, Pat (front row, left). Others participating were (back row, from left)

Ray Collins, soloist and music director at

Broadmoor Missionary Baptist Church in Meridian; Sam Puckett, computer graphic designer at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB); Charlene Barnett, drama director at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton; and Graham Smith, director of the music department at MBCB. Puckett, Barnett, and Smith presented a dramatic reading. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Analysis ...

Will America reform or revive?

By Richard D. Land

In the wake of the 1992 elections, some evangelical Christians have openly questioned whether Christians should make involvement in the nation's political process a priority, arguing that Christians and their churches should address only spiritual problems and withdraw from confrontation with governmental evil and injustice. As one Baptist pastor put it right after the election, the world "will never be changed through the political system... The only thing that we as Christians should want from our government is...let us be free people in a free land with free churches to go out...and evangelize and witness and disciple... Give us the opportunity to do that and then we will make the change in the moral climate."

This pastor's words express the justifiable frustration and disillusionment Christians feel with political leaders who have been long on rhetoric during election campaigns and short on reform when governing has commenced. Clearly, attempts to rectify societal immorality and injustice by political and governmental reform alone are doomed to failure. The premise, however, that Christians should focus only on evangelism is just as wrong as the premise that political reform alone is sufficient. Christians have a responsibility to do both.

The Baptist Faith and Message affirms a call to involvement with the world when it says that "every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in his own life and in human society." The confession

also says Christians not only "should oppose, in the spirit of Christ, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice," but "should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love."

King Josiah stands as the classic example that reform from government alone is never sufficient. After Josiah's heart was changed by the Word of God, he carried out a thorough reform of the nation, rooting out idolatrous and wicked behavior. However, his reforms proved temporary because the people's hearts were not changed, merely their habits (2 Kings 22-23).

Spiritual revival alone is also ineffective in rectifying societal evil and injustice unless the connection is made between belief and behavior and unless Christians understand that as redeemed beings we are called to be salt and light in society (Matt. 5:13-16). The withdrawal for too many years by too many evangelicals from soci-

etal and political engagement has led to many of our nation's problems. Peter Berger, commenting on surveys revealing that the people of India are the world's most religious and the Swedes the most secular, described America as "a nation of Indians ruled by an elite of Swedes." That is precisely what happens when believers disengage from political involvement.

As Chuck Colson put it, "Christians must contend for biblically informed morality and justice in the halls of power," but "what we do must flow from who we are" (Christianity Today, February 8, 1993). We must never embrace the false dichotomy of reform or revival, but revival and reform simultaneously. And when that happens, an exciting equation emerges: "Revival + Reform = Reformation." And Reformation is what our nation desperately needs. Nothing less is required and nothing else will suffice.

Land is executive director of the Christian Life Commission, Southern Baptist Convention.



Escape from the heat

Andres Xo (left), K'ekchi' Baptist pastor; his wife, Sofia Pop; and their young daughter relax in the coolness of a K'ekchi' Baptist Church in Pacola, Guatemala. The K'ekchi', descendants of the ancient Mayans, have formed their own Baptist association and support missionaries to their people. Southern Baptist missionaries have worked among the K'ekchi' for almost 30 years, and Southern Baptist native American volunteers are now working among several indigenous groups in the area. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

Executive Committee approves hirings, transfer

By Tim Nicholas

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Executive Committee approved the hiring of two new staffers last week and the move of another.

Kay Cassibry, 35, will be the new Mission Friends/Girls in Action consultant in Woman's Missionary Union beginning June 15.

Cassibry comes to the board staff

after earning the master of arts in Christian education degree from New Orleans Seminary. She is a graduate of Mississippi College and earned the master of arts in elementary education degree from the University of West Fla. in Pensacola.

She was preschool director at Morrison Heights Church in Clinton, 1986-87; taught first grade in Pensacola, 1987-89; was preschool director at Parkview Church, Baton Rouge, 1989-91; and was children's minister intern at First Church, Pascagoula, the summer of 1992. She taught kindergarten, first, and fourth grade in Pensacola, 1983-86; and taught first grade in Pascagoula, 1981-83.

Morris "Mo" Baker, 28, will become the new Baptist Student

Union director at Pearl River Community College on July 1. He has been minister to students at First Church, Gulfport, since 1989.

Earlier, he was camp pastor for Centrifuge, summers of 1987 and 1988; was a Centrifuge intern, January-June of 1988; summer youth minister at Normandale Church, Montgomery, 1983 and 1986; and was summer youth revival evangelist for the Alabama Baptist State Convention, 1985.

Baker is a graduate of Livingston University in Alabama and earned the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He is married to the former Darla Kling of Picayune.

Michael Ball, 28, will move from directing the BSU at Pearl River to associate BSU director at

the University of Southern Mississippi, effective June 1.

Ball, at Pearl River for the past two years, was BSU director at San Antonio College and Palo Alto College, both in San Antonio, 1990-1991. He has been an interim minister of music in Texas and was part-time BSU director at Cedar Valley College, Lancaster, Texas, 1987-89.

He was a youth faculty member at Gulfshore, 1987; was youth minister intern at First Church, Starkville, 1985-86; and was BSU summer missionary in Oregon and Washington in 1984.

Ball is married to the former Carol Brenner. They have one daughter, Elizabeth Noel, age two.

Nicholas is director of communications, MBCB.



Cassibry



Baker



Ball

Christianity now defined as counter-culture in U.S.

By Sarah Zimmerman

NEWARK, N.J. (BP)—Although Christians today live in a "hostile environment," James Garlow said: "This is our day."

The Nazarene pastor of Metroplex Chapel, Fort Worth, Texas, said 1968 was a turning point of Christianity's place in American lifestyles. Before then, Christianity dominated culture and "the values we held were the values of society," Garlow said during a Home Mission Board school of evangelism and church growth.

Until the late 1980s, Christians were among a number of subcultures that were equally accepted, he said. Now, Christianity is a counter-culture in the United States because its values are contrary to the values of society, he said.

Yet Garlow noted that "the church of Jesus Christ always does well in this kind of environment. The gospel is profoundly resilient."

Five things can be expected when Christianity no longer dominates a society's values, Garlow said:

1) Christians will spend more time in earnest prayer. It will not be a new fad or a "hot button" for a crisis.

2) Laity who are gifted for ministry will be better trained and equipped. The clergy will move over, the laity will move up, and they all will move out into the world with God's message, Garlow predicted.

3) Churches will experience an identity crisis about whether their primary function is to love, confront, or teach. Effective churches will have a balance of all three, he said.

4) Christians will become more focused. "They will learn the difference between action and accomplishment."

5) Christians will identify the enemy more clearly. Rather than fighting each other, Christians will learn to "get along with people in a way we never thought possible. Friendly fire is not an option in the '90s."

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

Carey counts 1992-93 as year of records

A record May commencement crowd in Dumas L. Smith Auditorium. All-time enrollment records in Hattiesburg, Gulfport, and New Orleans. New student admission application records. Prepayments on the long-term debt. New administrative appointments. National rankings in all seven NAIA sports programs and three coaches of the year. That's the story of the last 12 months at William Carey College.

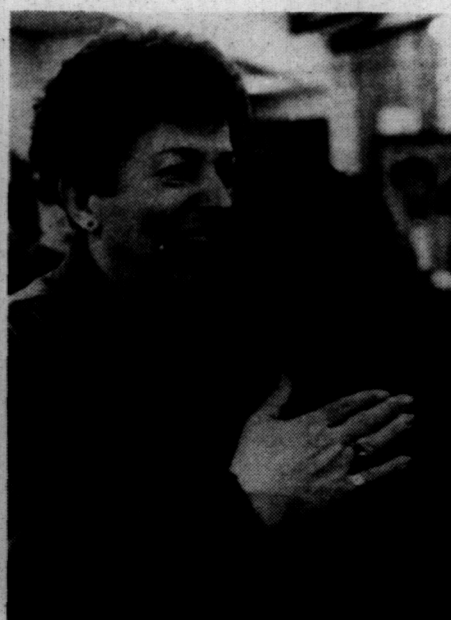
Before the 252 graduates heard the commencement speaker, Earl

Kelly, May 15, the faculty marched through and stood in the wings because their seats on the stage were taken by a record number of family and friends who were attending.

With 2,032 students attending in the fall of 1992 and 2,003 enrolled during the recent spring term, the college has achieved all-time highs in both student head count and semester credit hours taken (student FTE). According to President Jim Edwards, the 1,039 students in Hattiesburg and 570 stu-

dents in Gulfport were record fall enrollment highs on those two campuses, and the 407 students enrolled during the 1993 spring session represented another record in New Orleans.

"Not only did William Carey lead all Mississippi universities and colleges in enrollment head count growth with 360 more students in the fall of 1992, it was second only to Baylor University out of 53 Southern Baptist institutions, and Baylor has over 10,000 students," said Edwards



Multiplying by 1

Cherry Faile (left photo, at left), a public health worker from Dahlgene, Ga., is a single Southern Baptist missionary in Ghana, where she promotes immunization and health education as ways to combat a host of local childhood diseases. Faile, the daughter of missionaries to Africa, spends long days building trust in public health programs by traveling to Ghanaian villages to review children's medical records with parents. **Clara Brincefield** (right photo) of Statesville, N.C., a single Southern Baptist missionary in Chile for 30 years, gives many hugs of encouragement at El Sembrador—"The Sower"—Church in Temuco, Chile. Brincefield is a church development specialist who strengthens churches and new missions through teacher training and leadership development, and she also teaches at the Baptist Theological Institute in Temuco. (BP photos by Don Rutledge and Warren Johnson)

Executive Comm. tables retirement home study

By Tim Nicholas

Members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Executive Committee tabled a proposal to have a study done concerning development of a Baptist continuing care retirement community and hired new staff members.

They also agreed to help pay for a WMU motor home for disaster relief work and approved a new missions partnership.

Retirement center

The proposal tabled by the committee would have helped fund a feasibility study for a Baptist retirement center. Total cost of the study would be up to \$49,215, plus expenses such as travel and phone, half to be borne by the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, according to Kent Strum, executive director of the MBMC.

The study, offered by Parkside Senior Services, charging \$85 per hour, would have been done in phases so that it could be discontinued at any point. Components of the study would have been: sponsor review, community service assessment, senior housing market demand, nursing home use analysis, financial feasibility proforma, financial documentation, and recommendations.

Executive Committee members

agreed to table the motion citing lack of time to consider the idea among themselves and citing high cost of such a study.

Personnel

The Committee approved hiring of Kay Cassibry as Mission Friends/Girls in Action consultant in WMU, hired Morris Baker as BSU director at Pearl River Community College, and approved moving Michael Ball from Pearl River to become associate director of the BSU at the University of Southern Mississippi. (See related story on page 5).

WMU disaster relief

In other business the Executive Committee approved using \$40,000 of disaster relief funds to pay for half of a WMU motor home sleeping unit.

Executive Director Bill Causey said the money would come from a special one time gift to disaster relief, not from funds given to state missions. Ordinarily, disaster relief work is funded entirely through the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions and from contributions made during and after disasters.

The unit is a 32-ft. Itasca motor home with an equipment trailer. Total cost of the unit was \$78,805.

The rest of the cost will be raised by women involved in WMU in Mississippi.

Marjean Patterson, executive director of Mississippi WMU, said that the motor home will house up to nine women who will serve under the direction of the Brotherhood Department in disasters. They will do nursing, child care work, aid in clothing distribution, counsel women, and work on the food line.

A group of 20 women took disaster relief training at Central Hills Baptist Retreat in April for the first time.

Expenses for the WMU mobile unit will be covered from the state disaster relief fund when it is used for disaster training or disaster response.

Honduras partnership

The committee approved a new missions partnership with Honduras. Brotherhood Director Paul Harrell told members this partnership should be self-supporting.

Mission trips to Honduras would cost approximately \$625 per participant with some of the cost going to provide field housing, transportation, promotion, and field representation.

Harrell estimated that more than 650 volunteers from Mississippi would be traveling to Honduras during the partnership which should begin in January of 1994. He noted that Honduras is already the site of a large number of mission projects involving Mississippi Baptists.

The large number of volunteers, said Harrell, necessitates obtaining a field house and a field-side coordinator. At the end of the partnership, the house would become part of the estate of the Baptist Center at Tegucigalpa, with future use negotiated between Mississippi

Volunteers axed in FMB's downsizing

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Three mission programs for lay volunteers living and traveling abroad have become casualties of the recent downsizing at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The Tentmakers program will phase out as participants end terms of service. The other two — Baptists Living Abroad and the Creative Evangelistic Opportunity (CEO) network — ceased operation May 31.

Other cuts in the office responsible for the board's missionary appointment process at this point include the department enlisting pastors as missionaries and a position handling relationships with ethnic Southern Baptists other than African Americans.

The reduction was needed because of shortfalls in Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and a decline

in investment income caused by the decline in interest rates.

Bill Morgan, missionary enlistment department director, has been named assistant vice president for mission personnel, a position open since the January 1993 retirement of Charles Beckett.

In other shifts, the board's program for medical volunteers will move from the Missionary Health Department to the Volunteers Department.

Alvinia Michalec will continue to work with medical volunteer enlistment but will add to her duties secretarial support and enlistment assistance for the Asia and Pacific section of the volunteers department.

Van Williams, director of missionary health, will remain a consultant in medical volunteer enlistment.

Baptists and the Honduras mission.

The three-year partnership will begin in January after a Mississippi Baptist Convention document signing in November. Partnerships with Zimbabwe and Alaska continue. Bill Hardy, who coordinates the other partnerships, will include the Honduras partnership as part of his assignment.

New board members

Members approved for board confirmation new board members: Dewitt Cutts of Weir to replace Frank Bishop who moved, and Marty Evans of Oxford to replace David Ard who also moved.

Equipment purchases

Equipment purchases were approved: a new collator from Southeastern Graphic Services for the convention board print shop at \$48,684.48, and a floor cleaning machine from Jackson Paper Com-

pany for Central Hills Baptist Retreat at up to \$2,650.

Other business

In addition, Committee members approved a study leave for staff member Jan Cossitt to continue work on a master's degree in Christian education from New Orleans Seminary.

And members approved a policy on sexual harassment which would be voted by the convention board. Members were told such a policy is for protection in the future should a need arise. The policy sets out procedures for resolving any potential grievance.

An auditors' report noted no problems with the accounting procedures for the convention board and reported that the books were balanced.

Nicholas is director of communication, MBCB.

Volunteers still in demand for Andrew cleanup work

Nine months after Hurricane Andrew hit Florida, there is still devastation almost beyond comprehension. Debris lines the streets, homes are not repaired, and thousands of people still wait and hope for someone to care.

Long gone is the initial surge of help, concern, and financial assistance that was so evident in the immediate aftermath of Andrew. Many of the benevolent organizations have moved on.

Southern Baptists are still very much involved, assisting 500 homeowners with a waiting list of over 400 people. You can become part of perhaps the greatest hour that we as Southern Baptists have ever had to demonstrate God's love to needy people. Come help!

Volunteers can call the disaster relief center at (305) 248-7059. Be prepared to tell when you plan to arrive and depart; how many in your group and make-up, male/female and ages; what you are capable of doing. Call Mike Daily, Miami Association, (305) 553-8997, for information on other associational ministry opportunities.

Campers on Mission are also needed to assist with duties around the camp and to assist in the rebuilding. Call Warren Davies, (305) 248-7059 to discuss available dates. Full hook ups are available.

This information supplied by the Florida Baptist Convention.

WMU members asked to bring toiletries for seafarer kits

HOUSTON, Texas — Every person attending the Women's Missionary Union Annual Meeting June 13-14 is being asked to bring toiletry items to be given to seafarers in the Houston area.

WMU Annual Meeting participants will have an opportunity to take part in the Houston seafarers ministry in two ways — by providing items for the kits and by helping to assemble them.

The kits will be assembled during one of the Monday afternoon sessions of the annual meeting.

The WMU Annual Meeting will be at First Church June 13 and 14. The Monday afternoon session begins at 1:30 p.m.

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 3, 1993

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

How to... Help Your Teen Witness

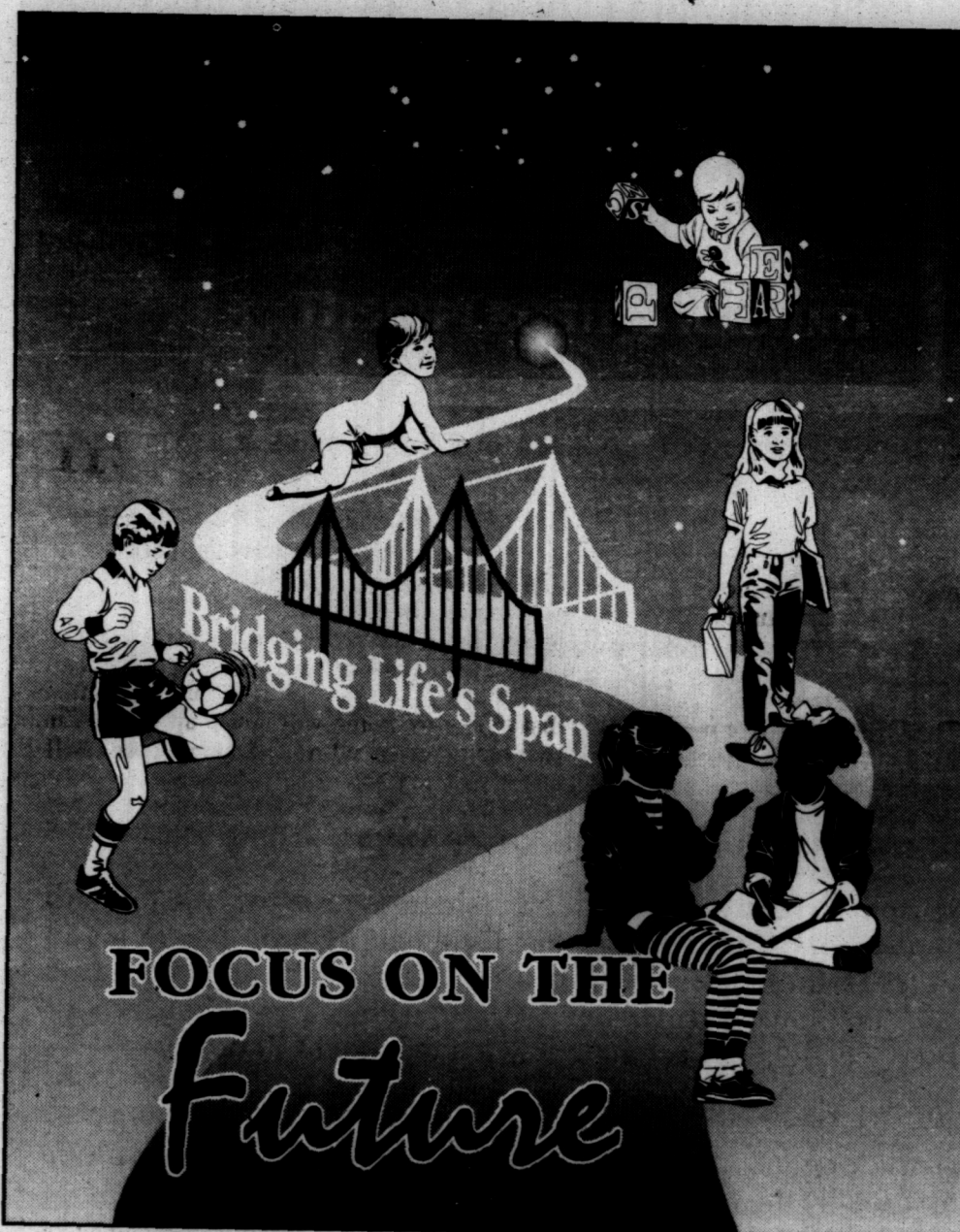
by Sean Keith, Youth Consultant, S.S. Dept., MBCB

If your teenager is like most, he knows he is supposed to witness and most likely knows someone who needs to hear it. The hard part is how. As an adult — you are a role model for your teen. The first step in helping your teen to witness is knowing that he is watching you. In a survey done by Barna entitled: Today's Teens: A Generation in Transition, teenagers were polled as to who had a lot of influence on their thoughts and actions. The encouraging response was Mother (mentioned by 70 percent), Father (mentioned by 60 percent), and Friends (mentioned by 52 percent). Therefore, parents you have a great responsibility in helping your teen to witness. Your teen will not always do what you say, but will more likely do what they see you doing. What am I talking about doing? I am referring to witnessing. (Don't stop reading now — the good news is yet to come.) The best way to help your teen to witness is to model a lifestyle of witnessing. Before you call down all the excuses of how and why you can't do that, try this idea for about six months and just see what happens.

Set a time for you and your teen to sit down together for about 30 minutes. Begin by praying for your teen and yourself that God would use each of you in witnessing to someone who is without Christ. Next, identify the names of two people you know that are not Christians. Ask your teen to do the same. Then, make a pact (commitment to each other, signed or otherwise) with your teen that for the next six months the two of you will get together once a week and pray for your prospects and plan some sort of contact for each of them that week.

Prayer is an amazing tool. It not only changes the heart of the one praying, but also the heart of the one being prayed for. Your focus of ministry for the next six months is on those two prospects that each of you has listed. What you want to accomplish through your contacts with your prospects each week is to build a relationship. I don't mean that they will become your best friend, but you need to make an intentional effort to see them, speak to them, get to know them and involve them in some area of your life.

To remember what I just told you, use these three words: IDENTIFY, INITIATE, and INVOLVE! Let's review. First, IDENTIFY two prospects each and make a commitment to pray for and minister to those prospects for six months. Second, INITIATE the rela-



A conference for
reaching and teaching
Mississippi's Future
Generations

Sponsored by
Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board

Hosted by
**First Baptist
Church**
Jackson
September 10-11, 1993



Cost: Before August 15

\$30.00

First person from church/organization includes an idea book, conference materials and Friday night banquet

\$10.00

for each additional person from same church/organization includes conference materials and Friday night banquet.

Cost: After August 15

\$35.00

First person from church/organization

\$12.50

for each additional person

Registration Form

Bridging Life's Span...Focus on the Future:
A Conference for Reaching and Teaching Mississippi's Future Generations
September 10-11, 1993 - First Baptist Church, Jackson

Name _____	Date _____
Address _____	Home Phone _____
City/State/Zip _____	Work Phone _____
Church _____	Association _____
No. of persons attending _____	
Total enclosed _____ (full payment required)	
Signature of Group Leader _____	

Make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention, c/o Linda Reeves, P O Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

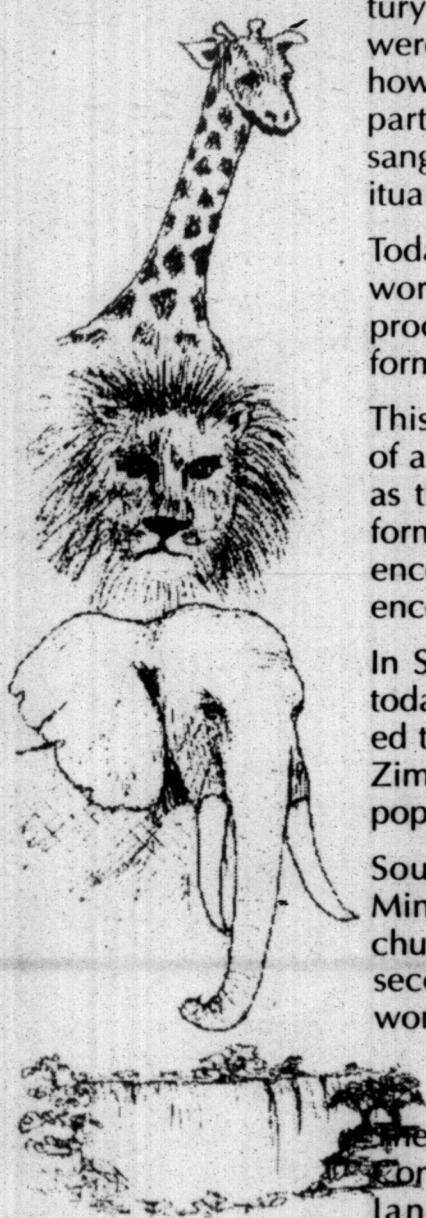
Before August 15: \$30.00 for first person and \$10.00 for each additional person from the same church/organization.

After August 15: \$35.00 for first person and \$12.50 for each additional person from the same church/organization. Registration fee includes one idea book per organization/church, conference materials and Friday night banquet.

Housing information will be sent upon receipt of registration

Article continued on back page

UNDER THE AFRICAN SUN



Rainbows colored the mist of Victoria Falls. A small band of men and women from Louisiana trekked down dusty paths to a small village at Mbizha. David Livingstone had walked these same paths over a century ago looking for the source of the Nile. These mission partners were sharing the source of Living Water. They could only envision how their efforts would change Mbizha. Day and night for two weeks, partnering with Zimbabwean volunteers, teams of two proclaimed, sang and communicated the love of Christ to those in need of this spiritual water. A new Baptist congregation was born.

Today in Mbizha, a thriving fellowship of Baptist believers meets for worship and shares in ministry to one another. They continue that proclamation in word and action to those around them. The transforming power of the gospel is evident in their lives.

This same opportunity for personal ministry is a reality for you because of a new partnership between Zimbabwe and Mississippi Baptists. Just as the establishment of a Baptist church in the area of Mbizha transformed individual lives and an entire community, you too, can influence the lives of people in Zimbabwe through your prayer and presence.

In South Central Africa lies one of the most responsive mission fields today. Zimbabwe has a population of 9,000,000 today, but is expected to mushroom to 12,500,000 by the year 2000 A.D. The country of Zimbabwe allows Baptists full freedom of witness to this burgeoning population.

Southern Baptists have represented Christ here for over 40 years. Ministries that are tools for winning the lost to Christ and building the church in Zimbabwe include: personal witness, health care ministries, secondary education, theological training, media, music, relief, and women's ministries.

YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

The Mississippi Baptist Convention has joined the Baptist Mission and Convention of Zimbabwe in an evangelistic partnership. Beginning in January 1992 and continuing until December 1994, this Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership offers you the opportunity of witness and service. Join us, as together, we reach out to Zimbabwe.

HELP US: Pray for the Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership

- Thank God for the openness to the Gospel in Zimbabwe and the unique opportunity provided by the Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership.
- Pray for a spirit of unity among Mississippi, Mission and Zimbabwe Baptists as leaders plan, prepare and realize this partnership.
- Pray that partnering teams will communicate Christ with effectiveness and boldness.
- Pray that God will show you how to personally respond in this Partnership.

HELP US: Reach out with your presence

Many volunteers are needed from Mississippi and Zimbabwe to make this partnership a success. If you can witness, sing, preach, swing a hammer, or simply speak up for Christ, your presence is needed on one of the numerous teams.

To find out how you can become a part of God's work in Zimbabwe, contact Bill Hardy, Partnership Coordinator, MBCB, 968-3800.

PRAYERGRAM

June 3 - 17, 1993

PRAY for Sandra Knop, a missionary nurse in Mali. She has been in the States because of a protruding disc in her lower back. She asks for prayer for Mali that the people will understand the new democratic form of government and be able to respect the leadership of the country.

PRAY for the churches and believers of Cuba. They have many privations and difficulties but Baptist work there is growing.

PRAY for Seychelles (Indian Ocean) and missionaries Dennis and Joellen Rivers who have arrived on this island to begin a sports-related ministry. Pray that the Riverses will adapt to the country and be able to build relationships with a variety of social classes.

PRAY for groups of volunteers who will be going on short-term missionary projects both in the United States and overseas. Pray for their safety and effectiveness and that their churches will receive a blessing from their reports.

PRAY for the Home Mission Board and the studies that are being made to determine how to best reach the Mega Cities of the United States.

PRAY for the students of the Baptist Student Union as they begin their ten weeks of summer mission work. Four of them will be working in Mississippi.

PRAY for the camp season at Garaywa and Central Hills. Pray that the youth of Mississippi will be reached in G.A., R.A. and Acteen Camps. Pray for the directors and staff of these camps.

PRAY for the Southern Baptist Convention, the WMU Convention, the National Prayer Conference to be held in Houston, Texas. Pray that God's will be done in every way.

PRAY for "Crossover Houston" and all those who take part in this evangelistic effort. Pray that many people will be won to Christ.

**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
PRAYERLINE
969-PRAY**

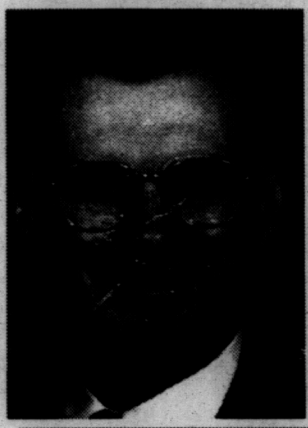
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM Robert Upchurch: Champion

by Debbie Baird Buie

When Robert Upchurch, as a new member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was appointed to serve on the Cooperative Program Promotion Committee, he brought with him a strong background in and commitment to stewardship and giving through Southern Baptists' unified financial distribution system. Growing up in Parkway Church, Jackson, Upchurch had parents who saw to it their son gave systematically and understood the significance of the tithe.

But it wasn't until he was older, married, and established as a lawyer in Tupelo that Upchurch, along with his wife Joann, committed themselves to tithing and a lifestyle of good stewardship.

"We came to a point where we were convicted to seek the Lord's will on a number of things," Upchurch says. His upbringing had firmly grounded him. "The biblical principal of tithing is clear, and we wanted to be obedient. It helped that we were in a church (Calvary, Tupelo) that was strong in mission giving and Cooperative Program support."



Like so many young couples, the Upchurches could have become embroiled in excuses not to give—the expense of starting out in business, establishing a home, beginning a family. But they chose the path of obedience.

The couple claims Proverbs 3:5-6 as their scriptural inspiration to continue in obedient giving. As Upchurch says, it may not be your typical stewardship passage, but it about sums it all up: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Serving on the Cooperative Program Promotion Committee has enlightened Upchurch somewhat—he had always been aware of the far-reaching effect Southern Baptist stewardship has had but not so much of the "up close at home" details.

"I always assumed most churches support (through the Cooperative Program) at the level ours did," Upchurch says. "Being on the committee has shown me there is a need to educate our people on the good the Cooperative Program is doing, how the funds are administered, and then encourage them to participate through their own giving. Our church alone could not support the worldwide or even statewide efforts, but in concert we can, and we each have a hand in it."



The Cooperative Program

AIDS: IT'S TIME FOR A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

It's time for Christians to respond to the AIDS crisis. What will your response be?

AIDS: A Christian Response, by William M. Tillman, Jr., addresses the AIDS epidemic from a Christian perspective. The author dispels the misconceptions about the disease and affirms the facts about AIDS, discussing the ways it is acquired, its symptoms, and its consequences. Christians will find this material indispensable in learning how to respond to the disease and how to protect themselves against infection. This 12-chapter book also equips individual readers and churches to minister to persons with AIDS, as well as to their families, with Christian compassion.

Now you can learn the facts about one of the most devastating crises of our time and how you can bring healing Christ's name. Study AIDS: A Christian Response individually or in a Discipleship Training group in your church. The book (item 5280-08) is available from the Baptist Book Stores and from the Customer Service Center; 127 Ninth Avenue, North; Nashville, TN 37234; 1-800-458-2772.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Bible • Preaching • Administration Conference

June 21-23, 1993
Gulfshore
Baptist
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CONFERENCES FOR:

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- Deacons' Wives
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CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

No charge for conferences

Conference Name and Date: _____

Rev., Mr., Mrs. Miss _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Children's Names and Ages:

Please indicate conferences you plan to attend:

RETURN THIS FORM TO: Julius Thompson, Director • Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Dept. • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205 • Phone (601) 968-3800 extension 3908.

Lodging request should be made directly with Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. Contact Frank Simmons, manager, at (601) 452-7261 or write to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly • 100 First Street • Pass Christian, MS 39571.

For more information on the conferences, contact Julius Thompson at 968-3800

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, MS

September 17-18, 1993

Schedule

FRIDAY

12:30-5:00	Registration
2:00-4:00	Leisure Time
5:15-6:00	Dinner
6:30-7:45	General Session in Auditorium
8:00-9:15	BREAKTHROUGH Sunday School Leadership Conferences
9:30	Ice Cream Fellowship

SATURDAY

7:00	Breakfast
8:00-9:30	BREAKTHROUGH Sunday School Leadership Conferences
9:30-9:45	Break
9:45-11:00	BREAKTHROUGH Sunday School Leadership Conferences
11:15-12:15	General Session in Auditorium
12:15	Lunch

Also two Special tracks:

• **SPECIAL MINISTRY**

• **GREAT COMMISSION TRAINING (Begins 2:00)**

REGISTRATION

All reservations must be made directly with Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First St., Pass Christian, MS 39571. Phone 452-7261. Reservation requests are accepted by mail only. Please note reservation form on reverse.

If you require additional information, contact the Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at (601) 968-3800.

HOW TO DEAL WITH AN UNWANTED GUEST

Sooner or later, crisis visits every home. But although crisis comes to visit, it doesn't have to stay.

Christians have valuable resources for dealing with crisis proactively and redemptively. The Equipping Center module *When Crisis Comes Home*, the study for the 1993 Christian Home Emphasis, teaches families what the Bible says about crisis and about God's care during crisis. This six-session study helps families identify and eliminate causes of crisis, at the same time realizing growth from the experience. Families also learn vital coping skills and ways to minister to others in crisis.

Does crisis ever visit your home? Learn how to deal with it by studying *When Crisis Comes Home*. The Module (item 7631-13) is available from the Baptist Book Stores and from the Customer Service Center, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, TN 37234; 1-800-458-2772.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Article continued from front page

tionship. That means you need to make the first move. A great line to use is: "A friend and myself will be getting together to pray this afternoon, for whenever you have decided to meet) and we will be praying for you. Is there anything you would like for us to pray about?" After you have prayed together, go back the next day and say: "I just wanted you to know that we prayed for you yesterday." Third, INVOLVE these prospects into some area of your life. Most people who become Christians and are actively involved in the church, do so as a result of a relationship with a caring Christian. Invite them to do things with you. Look for opportunities to minister to them. Take them something just to let them know you are thinking of them. When the opportunity is there, allow God to use you to share with them the Good News of Christ and what He means to you. Allow God in your prayer times together to direct you in what you say and do in every opportunity of contact that you have with these prospects. If they become Christians, join the church and are baptized — don't stop there. Help them get involved in Sunday School, Worship, Discipleship Training, Missions, Choir, and more. Help them develop a Christian lifestyle of Bible study, prayer, witnessing, etc. Now there's a thought — why not teach them to do the same thing you have done in reaching them.

At the end of six months, evaluate what has happened. Then decide to continue to work on your prospects, add some more names, or whatever God leads you to do. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus said: "Therefore go and make disciples..." Making disciples requires time, commitment, and a building of a relationship. Starting is the hard part. Try it and experience the joy of service and obedience to God. I want to invite you to be a part of the transformation that takes place in a life that God has touched.

Helping a teenager to learn how to witness is like anything else he or she learns. They need patience, encouragement, love, time, and someone who cares enough to show them how. ☐

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Concern over in-room movies prompts FamilyFest change

NASHVILLE — The Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) has changed the site of one of its FamilyFest locations following "a steady stream of critical letters and calls."

An announcement that the July 26-28 FamilyFest would be held at the Holiday Inn in Gatlinburg was met by a number of protest calls and letters, according to event coordinator Susan Lanford of the board's discipleship and family development division.

"The concerns spring from the boycott against Holiday Inn by several Christian groups because it is the largest hotel chain which provides in-room adult movie service," Lanford said.

While the Gatlinburg Holiday Inn was "eager to accommodate our concern," agreeing to pull all movie advertisement and block the service to participants' rooms, continuing concerns prompted board officials to move the conference site to the Glenstone Lodge-Days Inn in Gatlinburg, Lanford said.

Additionally, Holiday Inn agreed to release the board from its contract without penalty, Lanford said.

FamilyFest is a Sunday School Board-sponsored event that allows families to combine worship and vacation, Lanford said. A separate FamilyFest conference on July 5-7 will be held at Shangri-La Resort on Grand Lake near Afton, Okla.

Information can be obtained by writing to FamilyFest, BSSB, P. O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37203, or by calling (615) 251-2277.

Letters to the editor



Time to choose is at hand

Editor:

I have read today a new Mississippi Baptist Conservative Newsletter circulated by Pastor John Allen, FBC, Richton. This newsletter trumpets the SBC "conservative resurgence" and embraces the Cooperative Program as a tool useful to fund the national SBC.

The newsletter notes that the SBC has cut its budget because of revenue shortfalls, and blames this on the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Pastor Richard Johnson, Parkview Church, Greenville, complains the CBF is "siphoning money from the Cooperative Program... [and] causing people to choose

sides."

Hopefully pastors Allen and Johnson have led their churches to give double-digit percentages to the Cooperative Program as is common with most "moderate" SBC congregations, many of which now support the CBF too. If so, they stand apart from "conservative" leaders such as Adrian Rogers and Charles Stanley who pastor churches with low single-digit CP percentages.

Curiously there is no challenge to increase missions giving. One would think there would be a call for "conservatives" to support the denominational institutions and programs they now control.

An alarming prescription is offered, however: a radical redirecting of resources away from out state convention and toward SBC causes only. Rather than calling upon "conservatives" to increase their own CP giving to meet the high levels of the moderates, the "resurgence" crowd proposes to rob our state convention to finance the fundamentalist

SBC bureaucracy in Nashville! Maybe the proposed new "hard-wired" women's organization (the one being designed to replace the WMU) can sell this concept to mainstream Mississippi Baptists, but I seriously doubt it.

The "resurgence" folks who have taken over the SBC now have targeted our state convention. In 1979 their pseudo-issue was "inerrancy." Now the new "conservative" battle cry is "missions." Unless you support slashing the state convention's institutions and programs to increase funding for the "resurgent" SBC, you're anti-missions!

The "conservative" newsletter is correct in one respect: Mississippi Baptists are choosing sides. Truly this cannot be avoided now that the state convention itself is in the "resurgence" gun sight. Choose your side wisely, Mississippi Baptist, for the time to choose is at hand.

Greg Snowden
Meridian

Confirmation of lesbian at HUD called "major coup" for movement

FOREST, Va. — The U. S. Senate's approval May 24 of a controversial Clinton nominee has drawn the ire of at least one group.

"Today's Senate vote confirming lesbian activist Roberta Achtenberg as Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development is a major coup for the homosexual community," said Martin Mawyer, president of the Christian Action Net-

work (CAN). "However," Mawyer predicted, "for many senators who supported Ms. Achtenberg's nomination, this vote may have a tremendous voter backlash."

work (CAN).

"Ms. Achtenberg is an activist in the homosexual community and has been for a number of years. She aggressively sought this position, while herself admitting her lack of qualifications for the position. Our fear is that she will use her position at HUD to promote the specific interests of the homosexual community."

The Christian Action Network distributed copies of a videotape showing Ms. Achtenberg in a 1992 "Gay Pride Parade" in San Francisco to each senator before the vote on her nomination. CAN will also send a copy of the video to each major newspaper in the states of those senators voting in favor of the nomination. "It is well known that Ms. Achtenberg is a lesbian and an activist. Senators who vote in favor of her nomination will not be able to run from responsibility for placing her in that position," Mawyer said.

His church is not planning to build any new facilities. "We'll just fill what we have over and over and give more money to reach the world," he told 300 people attending the Home Mission Board's annual school of evangelism and church growth.

One example Roesel cited is "Saturday Sunday School." From 1:30 to 3 p.m. each Saturday, 60 volunteers lead Sunday School

Creative use of buildings necessary to reach world

By Sarah Zimmerman

NEWARK, N.J. (BP)—If Southern Baptists are going to share the gospel with all people, they must limit spending on church buildings, said a Florida pastor.

"If we're ever going to give what we ought to give to missions, we will have to be creative enough to use the buildings we have over and over again" rather than build new facilities, said Charles Roesel, pastor of First Church of Leesburg, Fla.

In a town of 25,000, Roesel's church has more than 70 ministries, including crisis pregnancy counseling, assistance for abused children, and homebound care for the elderly.

Each ministry's ultimate goal is evangelism, he said. Before the church became involved in such outreach, it never baptized more than 300 people a year. Since it began the ministries, it has not baptized less than 300 people a year.

Reaching hurting people requires lay leadership, he said. "We're not going to reach the world through clergy," Roesel said his most serious mistake as a pastor was believing he was the only person in the church God could use. The greatest decision he made was to trust the laity, he added.

To finance ministries, Roesel said churches must trust that God will provide. "If you're broke, start giving money away," said the pastor whose church received \$100,000 more than its budget requirements last year. "If churches will quit hoarding and start sharing, God will start blessing."

Zimmerman writes for Home Mission Board.

Southwesterners to summer on islands in Indian Ocean

FORT WORTH, Texas — A team of 12 students from Southwestern Seminary will use basketball to share the gospel for three weeks this summer in the Indian Ocean Islands.

According to Courtney Cash, a master of arts in religious education student from Columbus, Miss., and coordinator for the team, the students are scheduled to play in the Indian Ocean Island Games, a

preliminary for the Olympics.

In addition, the students will work in clinics with young people. Cash said the events will give the players the opportunity to share the gospel.

The team has been invited to the islands of the Seychelles, Madagascar, and Comoros.

The Comoros Islands have a predominant Muslim influence and no Southern Baptist missionaries.

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The Baptist Record

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The Baptist Record Sunday
June 6, 1993

Homecomings

McDowell Road, Jackson: June 6; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner on grounds, 11:30 a.m.; other activities include dedication of center court flower garden in honor of charter members at 1 p.m.; LaRue Stephens, pastor.

Mt. Zion, Brookhaven: June 6; Randy Lewman, speaker for morning service; noon meal served; business meeting and

memorial service in afternoon with J. Ronny Smith, speaker.

Center Hill, Hamilton: June 6; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; memorial/worship service, 11 a.m.; Herbert Redd, former pastor, guest speaker; covered dish served at noon; The McAdams Quartet featured at 1 p.m.; James M. Towery, pastor.

Interstate (Bolivar): June 6; 10 a.m.; W. D. Kirk, Indianola,

guest speaker; covered dish at noon; afternoon service, 1:30; Robert E. Haney, pastor.

First, State Line: June 6; 10 a.m.; Homer Yarbrough, former pastor, speaker; Jerry Gill, former pastor, and wife, special music; Lavon Crane, pastor.

Liberty (Carroll): June 6; 10:45 a.m.; John Gray, guest speaker; dinner on grounds; afternoon singing; Lewis Fitzgerald, pastor.

Union, Tylertown: June 6; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Mitchell Smith, guest speaker; covered dish at noon; Billy and Dondra Mangum, Crystal Springs, music, 1:30 p.m.; Wayne McCullough, pastor.

New Hope, Como: June 6; 11 a.m.; Mose Atwood, Como, guest speaker; covered dish in fellowship hall; afternoon singing, The Disciples, Olive Branch, guest singers; choir from Harromtown, music; Troy Defer, pastor.

Just for the Record

North Winona Church, Winona, is seeking a pastor. Submit resumes to Charles Sheffield, Chairman, Pastor Search Committee, North Winona Baptist Church, 601 Alberta Drive, Winona, MS 38967.

Colorado General Convention is seeking a new executive director/treasurer. The search committee will accept recommendations until July 1. Contact Tom Pratt,

Chairman, Search Committee for Executive Director, 241 S. 15th, Brighton, CO 80601.

Revival dates

Oak Grove, Mendenhall: June 6-9; 7 p.m.; Jerry Sullivan, Pine Grove, Magee, evangelist; Paul Padgett, First, Magee, music; Don Kleeb, pastor.

J. C. Renfroe, Rankin DOM, to retire

J. C. Renfroe has submitted his resignation as director of missions of Rankin County Association after 25 years, effective July 1.

A native of Pelahatchie, he is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He is married to the former Vesta Price of Brookhaven, and they have four children and six grandchildren.

He retired as chaplain for the Mississippi Air National Guard, Jackson, with the rank of lieutenant colonel (1964-88). In 1976, he was the recipient of the National Guard Bureau Certificate of Appreciation. He and his wife continue to serve in the chaplaincy

ministry at two local hospitals. He is also working as a volunteer for nursing homes, older adults, hospitals, churches, and schools through leading a blue grass and gospel music group, The Antiques.

Renfroe has served as pastor at Oakland Grove Church, Laurel (1950-52); Logtown Church, Logtown (1953-57); Crestwood Church, Jackson (1959-63); and assistant pastor at Parkway Church, Jackson (1957-59).

He will be available to serve as interim pastor or supply.

A reception in Renfroe's honor will be held June 27, 2-4 p.m., in the Family Life Center at Crossgates Church, Brandon.

A book of letters is being compiled in honor of Renfroe's years of service. Send letters no later than Monday, June 21, to Book of Letters, Michael Weeks, Oakdale Baptist Church, 1462 Hwy. 471, Brandon, MS 39042. For more information, call 829-1360.

Renfroe

Bill McCain, 69, pastor at Sardis, Hazlehurst, dies

Joseph Alexander "Bill" McCain, 69, pastor of Sardis Church, Hazlehurst, died of pneumonia on May 22. Services were held May 24 at Sardis Church with burial in Owens Cemetery in Shivers.

McCain, a native of Isney, Ala., was a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He pastored churches in Grenada, Simpson, Jones, Smith, and Copiah counties.

Survivors include wife, Mary; three sons, three daughters, four brothers, four sisters, and 10 grandchildren.

Indian Springs, Petal, sets homecoming to celebrate 100th anniversary

Indian Springs Church, 185 Walter Myers Road in Petal, will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a homecoming on June 6. Sunday School will be at 9:45 a.m., with morning worship service at 11 a.m. Former pastor Devon Byrd will bring the morning message, followed by dinner in the fellowship hall. The afternoon service will be held at 1:30, with Soldiers Again of Daniel Memorial Church in Jackson and the reading of a brief history of the church. Floyd Seymour is pastor.

Staff Changes

Terry Paul Graham has resigned as pastor of Poplar Springs Church, Itawamba County, effective April 18.

James E. Messer Sr. has been called as staff evangelist by First Church, Theodore, Ala. Messer is a native of Columbia, and has pastored churches in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. He is a graduate of William Carey College.

Barry Clin- gan began his ministry as pastor at Crossgates Church, Brandon, on May 30. Clin-



Clingan

as associate pastor. He has a B.A. from Bryan College, Dayton, Tenn., and received the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary in 1987.

Harry Barnes has been called as associate pastor of Trace Ridge Church, Ridgeland. He previously served Spring Hill Church, Copiah Association. Barnes is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary.

Lloyd Wilson has been called as pastor of Day Star Church, Florence.

Charles Myers is interim pastor at Woodville Heights Church, Jackson.

In 1955, Mississippi Baptists purchased Kittiwake Assembly. Four years later, the Gulfshore Assembly property was added.

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THE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH in Columbus, Miss., is presently looking for a part time minister of music and youth. Any individual who is interested should mail a resume to: Community Baptist Church, Search Committee Chairman, 2490 Yorkville Road East, Columbus, MS 39702 or they may call 327-5306 or 328-2105.

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Names in the News

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Faculty member Molly Marshall was honored during Southern Seminary's 171st commencement



Carey Springs Church, Randolph, licensed Jeffery Waldo, right, to the gospel ministry May 9. Son of J. D. and Vara Waldo of Randolph, he received his license certificate from Chuck Shumaker, pastor. He also recently graduated from the University of Mississippi Law School. Waldo is married to the former Samatha Yarbrough and they have one son, Jacob. He is available for supply work and can be reached at 489-1651.

May 21. Marshall, associate professor of Christian theology at the Louisville, Ky., school, received the Findley B. and Louvenia Edge Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence. Marshall, who joined the seminary faculty in 1984, was the first female theology professor named to a teaching post at a Southern Baptist seminary. She holds degrees from Oklahoma Baptist University and Southern Seminary.

David E. Godbold is a Biblical dramatist. He majored in theatre at William Carey College. He portrays the apostle Paul in the play "Delivered From the Lion's Mouth" for churches. The one-man drama lasts approximately one hour. For more information, call 649-4597 or write to Godbold, 415 North 18th Avenue, Laurel, MS 39440-3862.

W. Levon Moore will complete a 22 month interim pastorate at Williamsville Church in Attala Association on June 6. During that time, the church has

added 45 new members, with 20 of these being by baptism. Moore, retired pastor and director of missions, is available for pulpit supply or interim pastorates, and



Juanita Schilling, left, was presented a plaque by Donna Swarts, right, WMU director, Simpson Association, at the annual spring meeting. The plaque, which had 1 Thess. 1:3 inscribed upon it, was given as a token of appreciation. Glen Schilling, former director of missions, and Mrs. Schilling served the people of Simpson County for over 15 years.

may be contacted by calling 289-6059.

Helen H. Price, summer camp director at Garaywa, Clinton, was the topic of a story in the January issue of *Royal Service*, a publication of the Woman's Missionary Union. Price, who has been elected president of her counseling psychology internship class at



Price

Mississippi College, is serving her internship as a counselor at North Pike schools. She works with students who have been referred to her for several reasons. The article noted, "She is not a guidance counselor; rather, she is a trained professional who works with problem students." The article also noted that Price legally is unable to begin a conversation about her Christian perspective, but if students bring up the topic of God, their spiritual conditions, or the role of the church in their lives, she can discuss any of these topics with them.



Officers for the Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association for 1993 are pictured, seated, back row, Elizabeth Godfrey, Fairview Church, Columbus, 2nd vice president; standing, back row, Connie Evans, Mississippi College, 1st vice president; Betty Chesteen, Calvary Church, Greenville, president; seated, front row, Ruth Smith, First Church, Grenada, secretary-treasurer.

LEADERS

from page 3

eign Mission Board in the future that will have deep roots with its past heritage. I feel confident that that's what has happened."

—Dellanna O'Brien, Woman's Missionary Union executive director and a former Southern Baptist missionary to Indonesia with her husband, Bill: "We served briefly with Jerry and (his wife) Bobbie in Indonesia. I know him as a very effective missionary and as an excellent administrator. He and Bobbie are good people, wonderful Christians, completely dedicated to the missions cause. My con-

gratulations to the search committee for an excellent choice. I'm very pleased the search committee listened to the requests that they choose someone who has missionary experience and that it's not what might be perceived as a political appointment. I know of Jerry's appreciation of the work of WMU and look forward to continuing that relationship and working together effectively."

—H. Edwin Young, SBC president and pastor of Second Church in Houston: "I have great confidence in the opinion of the committee and I concur with the members that this is definitely God's man to lead us into the 21st century as we seek to introduce a lost world to our Lord and Savior."

Among other leaders asked for

comment about the Rankin nomination were:

—Cal Guy, distinguished professor of missions, emeritus, at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas—who was Rankin's missions professor during the 1960s—said he is "absolutely delighted" with Rankin's nomination, describing him as someone "with a heart for the Lord. I have been praying for someone who could get the ear and heart of the denomination and lead us back to a positive approach. I think he (Rankin) is uniquely qualified to do that. He and (his wife) Bobbie are a superb couple and the kind of leaders we need. They will provide true spiritual leadership."

Toalston writes for Baptist Press.

Some missionaries question Rankin's management style

BEDFORD, Texas (ABP) — Reaction to the nomination of Jerry Rankin as president of the

Foreign Mission Board is generally favorable from those who have worked with him overseas, although some colleagues question whether Rankin's management style will be well received.

"His management style has not always made missionaries happy," said Henry Turlington, who worked briefly with Rankin in India. "He makes decisions by himself rather than consulting with missionaries."

Rankin has downplayed traditional institutions overseas, said Calvin Parker, a missionary to Japan from 1951 to 1989. "I can understand how he might come to the top," said Parker, now retired and living in Mars Hill, N.C. "I presume he is willing to work with trustees in a way that will please them."

"I can't say that I welcome the news," Parker said.

RANKIN

From Page 3

the Scripture and demonstrated that he understands and will embrace pluralistic missions efforts of all Southern Baptists. We feel Dr. Rankin can spearhead a great movement among all Southern Baptists for global missions."

Rankin noted, "My desire, more than anything else, is to provide spiritual leadership so that all of our resources and personnel will be in harmony with what God is doing and desires to do through us around the world."

Rankin got his first view of missions as a summer missionary for the Home Mission Board in Vermont and New York in 1962 and as a summer missionary for the Foreign Mission Board in the Philippines in 1963.

After missionary appointment, he studied language in Bandung, Indonesia, served as a general evangelist in two other Indonesian locations, consulted in evangelism and church growth in India, served as associate to the area director for South and Southeast Asia and then administrator for mission work in India, and finally became area director for Southern Asia and the Pacific.

Earlier, he worked through high school and college as a sports

writer for the *Jackson Daily News-Clarion Ledger*, 1956-63, and served at various times as interim pastor of Harrisville Church, summer youth director of First Church, Columbus, Ga., pastor of Montpelier Church and youth director and associate pastor of Sagamore Hill Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

Rankin, born in Tupelo, grew up in Fulton and Clinton. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College in 1964. He also holds a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Mississippi College.

If elected, he would become the second board chief executive named Rankin.

The late M. Theron Rankin, a former missionary to China whom Jerry Rankin thinks may be a distant relative, served as what was then called executive secretary from 1945-53.

Mrs. Rankin, a native of Mobile, Ala., received the bachelor of science degree from Mississippi College in 1966. She attended Southwestern Seminary.

Both Rankins were selected for the Mississippi College Hall of Fame, an honor accorded each year to four graduates on the basis of academics, service, and leadership.

The Rankins have two grown children: Lori, 24, and Russell, 23. O'Brien writes for FMB.

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Uniform A worthy life



By Chuck Pourciau
Philippians 1:3-14, 27-30

In the first chapter of Philippians we have recorded a beautiful prayer that was prayed by Paul on behalf of the Philippians. Paul was thankful for them and their support of him, but he also warned them about some issues in the church. Let's examine both Paul's commendation and exhortation in these few verses.

Paul thanked God for his fellow believers (vv. 3-6). In verses 3-4 Paul spoke of the frequency with which he thanked God for the Philippians. He thanked God for the Philippians every time he thought of them and in all of his prayers. We should thank God continually for our fellow strugglers in the kingdom of God. When is the last time you thanked God for a brother or sister in Christ? How much would be accomplished if we focused on thanking God for each other rather than being jealous of each other?

In verses 5-6 Paul gave reasons why he thanked God for them. He was appreciative of their partnership in the gospel with him and of the work God was doing in their lives.

Paul expressed his compassion for his fellow believers (vv. 7-8). Paul loved the Philippians, and he told them so. His love for them was based on the fact that they were a part of the same family. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ, and nothing should be able to separate our fellow Christians from our love. It should not matter what they or life do to us. We should still be able to express our love for them.

Paul prayed for his fellow believers (vv. 9-11). Paul did not pray for God to prosper their businesses, increase their church membership, improve their health, or double their church budget. He prayed that they would grow in Christ. He knew that if they concentrated on growing in Christ, all other needs would be taken care of.

So often we focus on being better witnesses, giving more to the church, or reading our Bibles more often. We need to realize that all these things will take care of themselves if we concentrate on being more in love with the Lord each and every day. When we allow God full freedom to work in our lives, Bible reading, witnessing, giving, and all other Christian disciplines will flourish. When we pray for one another, we need to focus on spiritual health as much as we do physical health.

Paul modeled a Christian perspective on adversity (vv. 12-14). Paul didn't groan and complain about being in jail even though he had been in jail for more than two years. He didn't complain that he was being prevented from doing the mission work he wanted to do in Spain (Romans 15:23-24). He focused on the good that had resulted from his imprisonment. Many, including the entire praetorian guard, had heard the gospel during his imprisonment. Also, it had encouraged his fellow believers to be more bold in sharing the gospel.

When we are faced with adversity, we must focus on the opportunity and not the problem. God is always able to do some good work in adversity that would not have been possible without it. Adversity is a marvelous opportunity for witness. Let's be sure we take advantage of that opportunity.

Paul urged them to live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ (vv. 27-30). Paul acknowledged their difficulties but encouraged them to remain unified during their difficulties. To live worthy of the gospel of Christ is to strive as one toward the common goal of advancing the gospel in the world.

Unity is based on harmony and not uniformity. Uniformity is when everyone is just alike. Harmony is when different people with different gifts and characteristics all work together toward the same goal. That is why the church is referred to as a body and not just an arm. We all have been equipped by God to be ourselves and utilize our gifts in carrying out the work of the kingdom.

Not long ago the Cathedrals were in concert at our church. I was amazed by their beautiful harmony. They all sang vastly different notes, but the resulting sound was beautiful. All God's children are unique and we all sing slightly different notes. But when we all allow God to use us as we strive toward a common goal, the resulting sound is indeed music to the ears of God.

Pourciau is pastor, First Church, Louisville.

Bible Book The suffering servant



By Guy A. Hughes
Isaiah 49, 53

Adoniram Judson, the renowned missionary to Burma, endured untold hardships trying to reach the lost for Christ. For seven heartbreaking years he suffered hunger and privation. On one occasion he was driven in chains across a desert, beaten and bruised, his feet bleeding, and falling exhausted beneath the whips of his captors, he prayed for God to put an end to the sufferings.

During this time he was thrown into Ava Prison, and for 17 months was subjected to almost incredible mistreatment. As a result, for the rest of his life he carried the ugly marks made by the chains and iron shackles which had cruelly bound him. Meanwhile, the mission house in which he lived was plundered of all he possessed; his wife was left without a chair to sit on. The height of his suffering was when he was released from prison and returned home. Maimed and forever scarred, a living skeleton, he walked home and upon arrival scarcely recognized his wife. She was dressed in rags, her hair completely gone, and in the depths of deprivation. Undaunted, he asked for permission to enter another province where he might resume preaching the gospel.

The godless ruler indignantly denied his request, saying, "My people are not fools enough to listen to anything a missionary might SAY, but I fear they might be impressed by your SCARS and turn to your religion!" He was right. The Judsons' enemies could not rob them of their faith and by the time their life on earth was done, thousands trusted Jesus.

Isaiah reveals to us that the suffering servant's character and work teach that God has taken the ultimate step to redeem people from sin. The life of Jesus and the blood of the martyrs calls us to walk obediently down the path of faith in this world of rebellion.

The Servant: deliverer of Israel and light to the nations (49:5-6). God forms and fashions his servants even in the mother's womb. Jeremiah proclaimed his mission as a servant of the Lord was given before birth (Jer. 1:5). Paul made a similar claim (Gal. 1:5). The servant prophecy was fulfilled ultimately in Jesus Christ. God's servants were called to be a light to those who walk in darkness. John's Gospel described the mission of Jesus this way: "In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.... He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God" (John 1:4-5; 10-13).

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

The suffering Servant's work (53:2-10a). Just as Isaiah predicted, the Servant bore the sins of the world upon his shoulders and provides salvation for those who come to him. There was nothing about his appearance to attract us to him. He was despised and rejected, a man of sorrows. He grieved for the sin of man and we hid our faces because we could not understand him. Since we could not face our sin, he faced them for us, and carried our griefs and sorrows. He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. He bore our punishment. His stripes have miraculously brought us healing. Adoniram Judson wrote, "In encouraging other young men to come out as missionaries, do use the greatest caution. One wrong-headed, conscientiously obstinate fellow would ruin us." Then he described the sort of person he preferred: "Humble, quiet, persevering men; men of sound, sterling talents (though, perhaps, not brilliant), of decent accomplishments, and some natural aptitude to acquire a language; men of an amiable temper, willing to take the lowest place, to be the least of all and the servants of all; men who... live near to God, and are willing to suffer all things for Christ's sake, without being proud of it, these are the men."

Then the scarred Judson added, "But oh, how unlike their description is the writer of it!" The great pioneer missionary acknowledged his own shortcomings.

Hughes is pastor, Friendship Church, Grenada.

Life and Work Being concerned for all



By Laura Russell
Acts 10:34-36, 39-48

The early days of Christianity were exciting as God's Spirit moved and people's lives were changed. Converts were pouring in from surprising backgrounds. Even the dreaded Saul became a Christian, and non-Jews were responding to the good news about Jesus. Among the first of these was the Roman centurion, Cornelius.

Peter's acknowledgement (vv. 34-36). Perhaps the greatest barriers to the spread of the gospel in the first century was the Jewish-Gentile conflict.

Most of the early believers were Jewish, and to them it was scandalous to even think of associating with Gentiles. But God told Peter to take the gospel to a Roman, and Peter obeyed despite his background and personal feelings.

The visit to the house of Cornelius set the stage for a remarkable discovery by Peter. He learned the central and elemental facts about the universal meaning of Christ: God's grace was for all.

The Jewish legalistic views must be discarded, and the walls of exclusion must fall. Through the determination of an outsider to hear the Christian message, Peter was able to comprehend that God showed no partiality.

God was making it clear that the good news of Christ is for everyone! We should not allow any barrier — language, culture, prejudice, geography, or education — to keep us from telling others about Christ.

Peter's preaching (vv. 39-43). Peter's brief and powerful sermon contains a concise statement of the gospel: Jesus' perfect life; his death on the cross; his resurrection; personally witnessed and experienced by Peter; Jesus' fulfillment of the Scriptures; and the necessity of personal faith in him.

Peter's sermon is our first example of preaching to the Gentiles. It consists primarily of the proclamation of the facts of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and the appeal to believe on him for the forgiveness of sin, and anyone who trusts Christ for forgiveness of sin will be saved.

The salvation of the Gentiles (vv. 44-45). On the day of Pentecost, Peter had advised his hearers to repent, to be baptized, and to receive the Holy Spirit (2:38). At Caesarea, the order of events was changed, and the Holy Spirit fell upon Cornelius and his family before they were baptized. This was not a new Pentecost but an extension of Pentecost to include the Gentiles.

Cornelius and Peter were very different people. Cornelius was wealthy, a Gentile, and a military man. Peter was a Jewish fisherman turned preacher. But God's plan included both of them. In Cornelius' house that day, a new chapter in Christian history was written. A Jewish Christian leader and a Gentile Christian convert each discovered something significant about God at work in the other person. Cornelius needed Peter and his gospel to know he could be saved. Peter needed Cornelius and his salvation experience to know Gentiles were included in God's plan.

Peter's response to their salvation (vv. 46-48). Peter at once recognized that the Gentiles should be brought into the fellowship of the church. He commanded that Cornelius and his family be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Baptism in the water followed baptism in the Spirit publicly declaring their allegiance to Christ and identification with the Christian community.

Cornelius asked Peter to stay with them for several days, in order that Peter might teach them more and that they might learn more.

We would do well to remember that church membership is not the end of the road. There still remains the duty of learning and reaching more deeply every day into the fathomless riches of Christ.

Cornelius is a welcome example of God's willingness to use extraordinary means to reach those who truly desire to know him. He does not play favorites, and he does not hide from those who want to find him. God sent his Son because he loves the whole world — and that includes Peter, Cornelius, and you.

Russell is a member of First Church, Brandon.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

ACCREDITED

P. O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242



Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Feb. 1-28, 1993

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MARCH 1-31,
1993

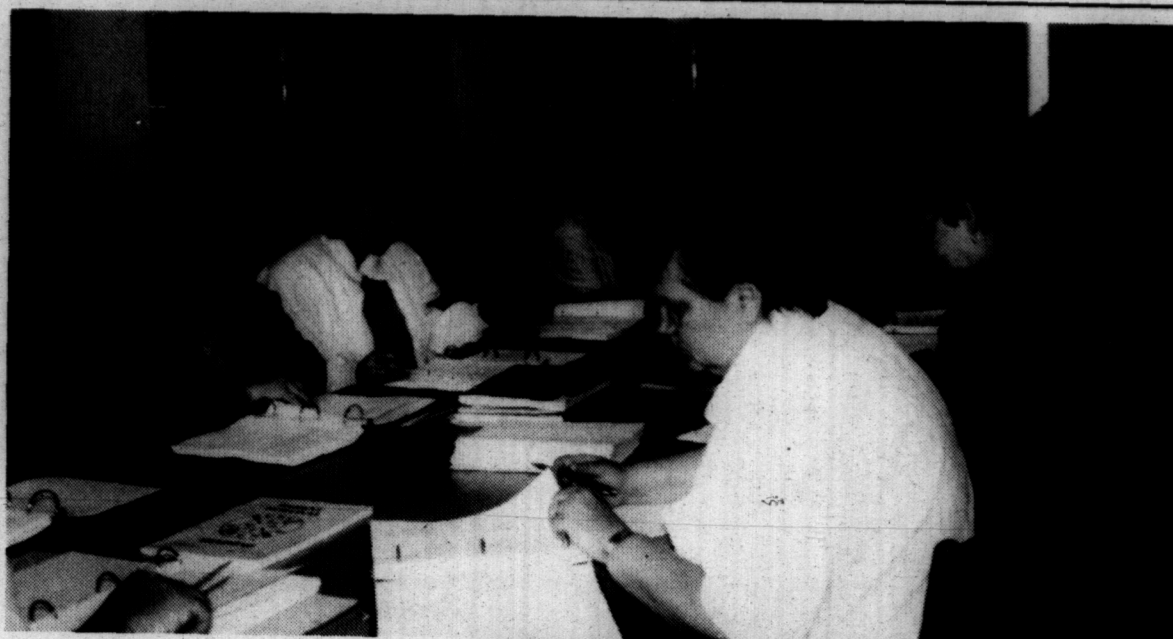
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Children's Village staff receive training on a regular basis to help them better meet the needs of the children and families we are called to serve. The group at right recently completed a week-long training experience on our "Ropes Course." Both classroom training and hands on experience such as the "Ropes Course" is used to develop and enhance the group leadership skills of Children's Village staff. An ongoing training program is essential to the ministry of the Village.



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Roxie BC
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Ms. Dorothy Shelby

(to be continued)



The Meuse is an activity designed to build group communication, team work, and problem solving skills. This Reedy Acres group is learning to encourage and support one another as they cross the imaginary "bogs of Lost Swamps."



Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Tania Wolverton. I am 10, 11 on June 23. I am a Christian and go to First Church in Meridian. I am in the 5th grade at Southeast Elementary. My hobbies are watching TV, riding bikes, drawing, and swimming. I have two dogs. Their names are Snoopy and Stinker. If you want to be my pen pal, please write to me at this address: Rt. 7, Box 514D, Meridian, MS 39301.

Tania Wolverton

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Brandy Page Mulligan. I am 11 years old. My birthday is July 25. I am a member of Palestine Church of Nettleton. My hobbies are writing, cheering, softball, and basketball. If you would like to be my pen pal, please write to me at this address: P.O. Box 196, Plantersville, MS 38862. Please write.

Brandy Page Mulligan

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Troy Riddell. I will be in the 6th grade at North Sunflower Academy. I'm 11 years old. I like to play baseball, soccer, basketball, and other sports. My favorite foods are Korean foods. My favorite color is turquoise. I go to Ruleville Church. Someday I want to be a doctor and find a cure for cancer if they haven't found one yet. I want my pen pal to be a girl or boy. My address is Rt. 2, Box 785, Drew, MS 38737.

Troy Riddell

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Monica Vanlandingham. I am a student at North Sunflower Academy. I am 13 and in the 7th grade. I like cheerlead-

ing, swimming, and volleyball. I would like for any boy or girl to write to me. My address is 310 E. Sunflower, Ruleville, MS 38771.

Monica Vanlandingham

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Elizabeth Eastland. I am 10 years old and in the 5th grade. My hobbies are riding bikes, and playing with my pets. My favorite color is turquoise. I would like to be a vet. I would like to have a pen pal. Please send my letter to P.O. Box 1, Doddsville, MS 38736.

Elizabeth Eastland

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Haley Roth Tranum. I am 10 years old. I am in the 5th grade at Presbyterian Day School. My hobbies are soccer, baseball, basketball, ice skating, and gymnastics. I go to church at Ruleville Church. I would like a boy pen pal, but a girl would do. My address is 133 N. 3rd St., Drew, MS 38737.

Haley Roth Tranum

Dear Pen Pal Club:

I am 11 years old. I am in the 4th grade. I love to play soccer, and my favorite colors are red and yellow. I go to church at Ruleville Church. I enjoy reading the Bible. Someday I want to be a preacher. My address is 305 Dattell Park, Ruleville, MS 38771.

Chris Brassfield

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Billy Roach. I go to Calvary Church. I'm 9 and to to Verona school. I am in the 3rd grade. If you want any more information, aged 8-11 write to me at P.O. Box 805, Verona, MS 38879.

Billy Roach



GAs recognized at mother/daughter reception

Twenty Girls In Action participated in a May 9 recognition service at First Church, Yazoo City. Each girl received a certificate during the evening presentation. The girls and their mothers also were honored during a reception preceding the service. Pictured left to right, front row, Shaniqua Butterfield, Virginia Parker, Elysia Helton, Kelleigh McLeod, Erin McGraw, Molly Langley; second row, Emily Cobb, Cambra Burrell, Robin Milner, Morgan McLeod, Maggie Simmons; third row, Tyshaun Butterfield, Ann Harris, Emily Street, Michelle Roark, Brandi Brewer, Kimberly Cureington, Laura Harris; back row, Jennifer Middleton and Sasha Whitfield. Beth Harris is GA director, and R. David Raddin is pastor.

"Do I have to?"

*Editor's Note: The following is taken from the book **Do I Have To?: What To Do About Children Who Do Too Little Around the House** by Patricia H. Sprinkle (Zondervan Publishing House, 1993). **Do I Have To?** is a persuasive and entertaining argument that children need to do chores to learn how to become dependable, capable adults. Sprinkle shows how parents should teach their children household skills and gives suggestions for making teaching easier. The book is available at local bookstores or by calling (800) 727-3480.*

Early one spring morning I carried a mug of tea out to our porch for a time of peace and prayer before starting work. We are blessed to live on a quiet street with a landscaped median and

small stream, so that even in the city I have a view of flowers and trees from my rocker. That particular morning I was admiring white sprays of bridal wreath when a mockingbird came strolling down our sidewalk. Behind him trotted a wise and determined mother.

She ran up and butted him gently. He picked up his pace. She butted him harder. He ran faster. She backed up, rushed down the sidewalk, and butted him so hard he was pitched into the air. He fluttered his wings a few times—and headed for a convenient crape myrtle.

Landing on a nearby branch, she gave him a good piece of her mind. Then she shoved him out. He flew back to the sidewalk—and resumed his stroll.

The mockingbird mother got

mad! Squawking at the top of her lungs, she flew down and hit him in the backside with a tail-jolting thud that propelled him a good four feet off the ground! Convinced, the little bird finally flew.

That mockingbird mother knew something her child had not yet learned: strolling mockingbirds don't survive.

Are we human parents as wise as mockingbirds? We provide our children with education, religious training, security, vaccinations, and the four food groups. Do we also teach them practical life skills they may literally need to survive?

Missions Recognition

Highland Church, Meridian, held a Missions Organizations Recognition Service May 5 honoring Mission Friends, Girls in Action, and Royal Ambassadors. Each participant received a certificate and the awards he or she had earned. Leaders are: Mission Friends, Leeann Kitchens; GA, JoAnn Goldman; and RA, Ed Smith, Jodie Jacobs, Kevin Remy, and Ken and Kelly Richardson. Vicki Mathis is Woman's Missionary Union director, and Jim Brannon is pastor.



Baptist Record

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